

# Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area

## Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2026



Lisa D. Allen  
Forestry Division Chief

11-21-16  
Date

## Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

Paul Johnson, Resource Forester

Greg Stoner, Fisheries Management Biologist

Chris Newbold, Natural History Biologist

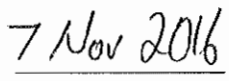
Mike Jones, Protection District Supervisor

Jodi Moulder, Private Land Conservationist

### CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair

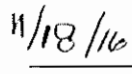
  
Signature

  
Date

### FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief

  
Signature

  
Date

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area, # 7306
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1973
- **Acreage:** 80 acres
- **County:** Camden
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose**

### A. Strategic Direction

Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area (Mansfield CA) is managed for wildlife, forest and woodland resources with an emphasis on maintaining healthy forests and compatible recreational opportunities.

### B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Mansfield CA is a healthy forest ecosystem that is accessible for public recreation.

### C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

A. **Priority Areas:** None

B. **Natural Areas:** None

### II. Important Natural Features and Resources

A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.

B. **Caves:** None

C. **Springs:** None

D. **Other:** Mansfield CA is located in the Lake of the Ozarks Oak Woodland/Forest Breaks, a land type association that occurs in the Osage River Hills subsection of the Ozark Highlands. This land type consists of rugged hills, described as having narrow ridges, steep-sided slopes with outcrops and narrow valleys. Historically, dolomite glades and savannas were common in this otherwise oak dominated forest and woodland complex. These habitat complexes persist today; however, much of the historic glade and savanna habitats have degraded in the absence of fire (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

Mansfield CA is 100 percent forested. It is mostly an upland oak/hickory cover type of black, white, post and red oak with some scattered blackjack oak and

hickory species. This cover type is described as a dry-mesic chert forest (Nelson, 2010). Variations exist within this community, depending on soil characteristics, topographic position and slope. Pockets of dry or dry- mesic chert woodland are present in a matrix along the exposed south- and west-facing slopes or ridge tops (Nelson, 2010).

### **III. Existing Infrastructure**

- One parking lot
- One hiking trail (0.75 miles)

### **IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

#### **A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:**

Mansfield Conservation Area was acquired as a donation, given by the previous landowner. Recorded in the deed as a provision of the donation, the Conservation Commission would maintain the property in a forest and woodland management program until it becomes clearly apparent, that it is not feasible to maintain the area in this manner. At which time, the Conservation Commission may dispose of the property and use the proceeds to acquire additional property elsewhere within the state, in honor of the original donating party.

#### **B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

#### **C. Easements:** Electric utility easement

#### **D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.

#### **E. Endangered Species:** None observed.

#### **F. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

## **MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

The current condition of the forest at Mansfield CA is a healthy saw-timber-sized oak dominant forest/woodland with pockets of small pole-sized timber, as a result of previous firewood harvesting. The saw-timber size class is in great condition and exhibits desirable growth, but is nearing maturity. The pole timber is overstocked, but is in good condition. Annually, crews conduct hazard tree removals and forest health monitoring.

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain healthy forest and woodland ecosystems.
- 2) Provide diverse wildlife habitats.
- 3) Control invasive species.
- 4) Protect the headwater streams present.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain healthy forests and woodlands through active forest management.

**Strategy 1:** By 2019 inventory the forest and determine a long-term management strategy. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Implement prescribed plan, as determined by the forest inventory by the end of 2024. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Annually monitor forest health. (Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** To minimize soil loss utilize best management practices during timber harvest and woodland management as described in the Department's *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices Recommended for Missouri Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain a diversity of wildlife habitats.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain an abundance of cavity trees and snags for wildlife. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Provide cover and increase browse for wildlife by implementing forest thinning, where appropriate and as prescribed by forest inventory. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Implement an integrated pest management plan to control the spread of invasive species.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor and document the proliferation of problematic species on a regular basis. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Use a combination of mechanical, herbicide, and prescribed fire to suppress any infestations that may develop. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor the treated areas for effectiveness and long term condition of the site. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 4:** Maintain the ephemeral headwater stream on the area. Improve long-term stream stability and ecological function.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain the existing wooded riparian corridor, through natural regeneration, on all lands bordering the first-order streams at a minimum of 50 feet wide. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009) for all management activities on the area. (Forestry)

## **VI. Public Use Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide for hunting and viewing opportunities.
- 2) Provide accurate area regulation information.

**Management Objective 1:** Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Annually ensure that the area is accessible for approved hunting methods and approved recreation. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain the hiking trail. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain accurate information about Mansfield CA.

**Strategy 1:** Review and update the Conservation Atlas database annually to maintain accurate information about the area. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Annually update signage to communicate area regulations. (Forestry)

## **VII. Administrative Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Missouri Department of Conservation guidelines. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Facilitate good working relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Strategy 1:** Request a survey to establish accurate boundary lines. Maintain boundary lines with paint or posted signs on a regular basis. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Inform neighboring landowners of planned management activities.  
(Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Respond proactively to issues or concerns generated by neighbors or the public. (Forestry)

## MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<b>Terrestrial Resource Management</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1			X							
Strategy 2				X	X	X	X	X		
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 1		X		X		X		X		
<b>Public Use Management</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2		X		X		X		X		

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area is in Camden County, approximately 2.5 miles west of Osage Beach on Highway KK. This area was donated to the Department in 1973 by Mr. Roy Mansfield of Osage Beach, Missouri and was named in honor of his mother Mrs. Alice Mansfield. The donation was made to maintain a forest and wildlife management program on the land.

The entire 80 acres is forested with an oak hickory cover type, most of which lies on the northwest side of Baydy Peak Road. The area habitat is unique for the surrounding area. Much of the adjacent forest lands have been converted into lake community subdivisions, resorts or golf courses; one-third of the boundary has been developed into subdivisions. The potential for an unwanted insect pest or invasive species outbreak is significantly higher due to forest fragmentation and the abundance of tourism received by the surrounding area.

Visitors to Mansfield CA can view wildlife while hiking the 0.75-mile hiking trail that loops through the forest and back to the parking lot. The area supports a fair population of whitetail deer, wild turkey and other game species.

This area is open for daily use from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., however special regulations apply for authorized activities noted in the area regulations and as defined in chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code of Missouri. Hunting is permitted; however, special regulations apply by season and game species. Archery methods only are permitted during the fall deer hunting season. Single projectiles are prohibited. Refer to the fall deer and turkey hunting booklet and the spring turkey hunting booklet annually for more information about season regulations.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest cover	80	100



**Public Input Summary:**

The draft Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period June 1–30, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from five respondents (Appendix A). The Mansfield Conservation Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the Mansfield Conservation Area public comment period.

**Suggests improving hiking trail. Suggests adding a walking path.**

The Department will continue to maintain the designated hiking trail as is.

**Concerned about the safety of area users who use the roads to walk and jog; would like these users to use area trails.**

Public safety is of high importance. Infrastructure upgrades to encourage fitness use of Department trails will not guarantee less use of public roads and will only increase area infrastructure maintenance.

**Requests assistance with tree removal on neighboring property.**

Area staff can provide diagnostic advice for insect and disease issues; however, the Department will not assist with removing trees on private property.

**Concerned with groundhogs dumped on conservation area and invading neighboring property. Seeks assistance with nuisance groundhogs.**

Area staff can provide advice on deterring nuisance wildlife. When necessary, live traps are available on short-term loan at the Conservation Service Center.

**References:**

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice: Recommended practices for Missouri forests*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2015). *Missouri forest management guidelines voluntary recommendations for well-managed forests*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation

Nelson, P. W. (2010). *The terrestrial natural communities of Missouri*. Missouri: Missouri Natural Areas Committee, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

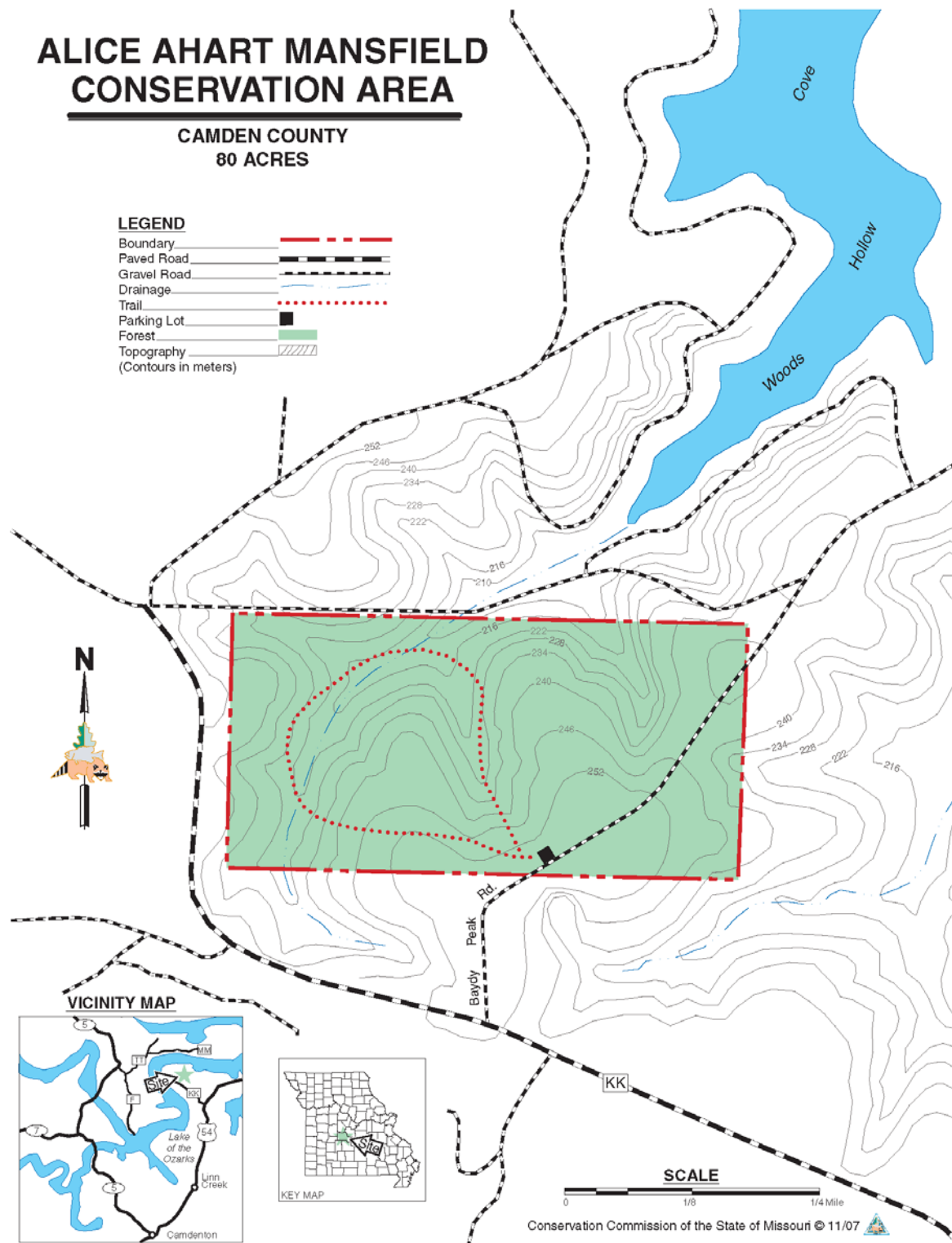
Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

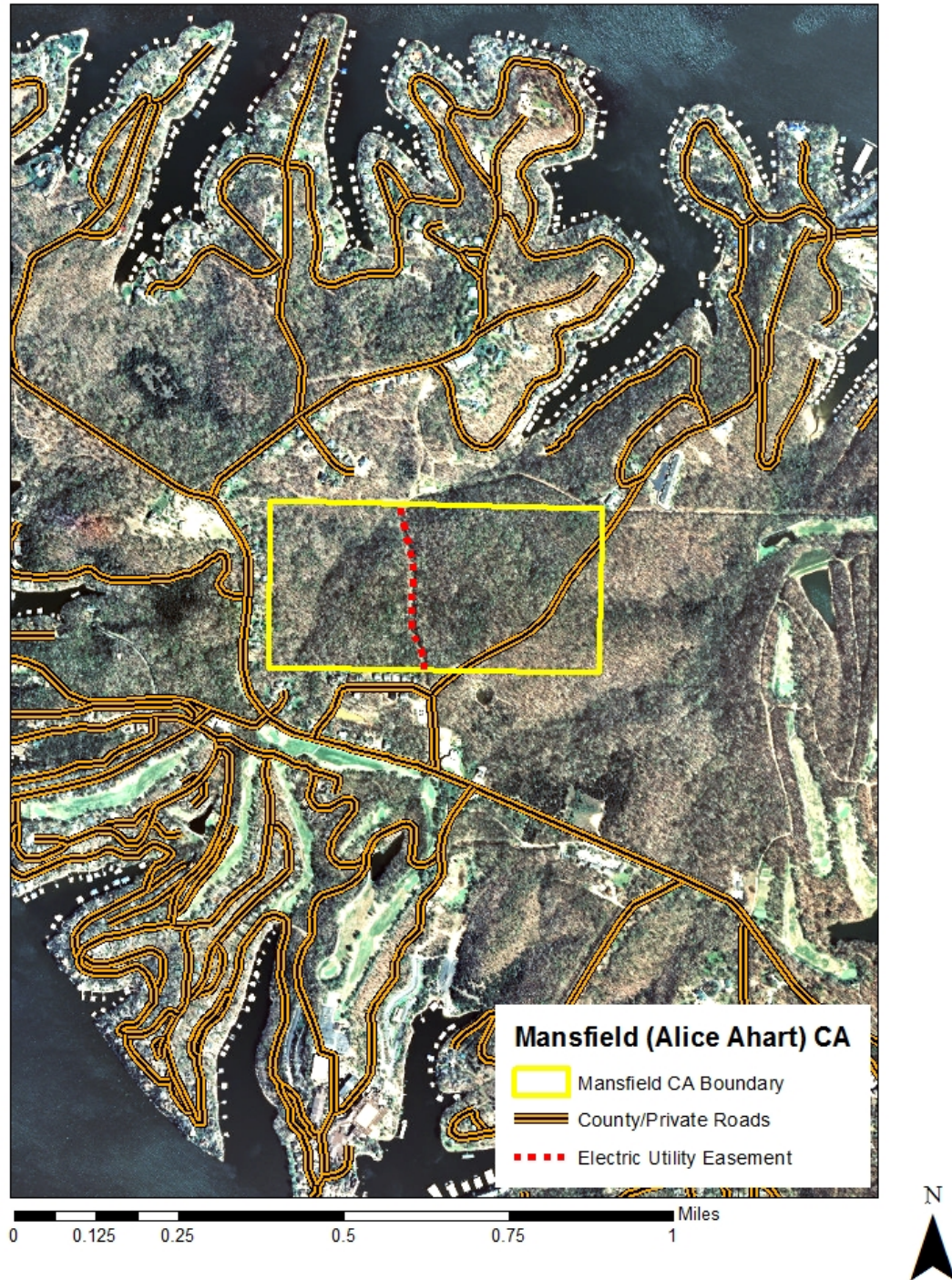
**Additional Appendices:**

Appendix A: Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

**Figure 1: Area Map**



**Figure 2: Aerial Map**





**Figure 3: Topographic Map**

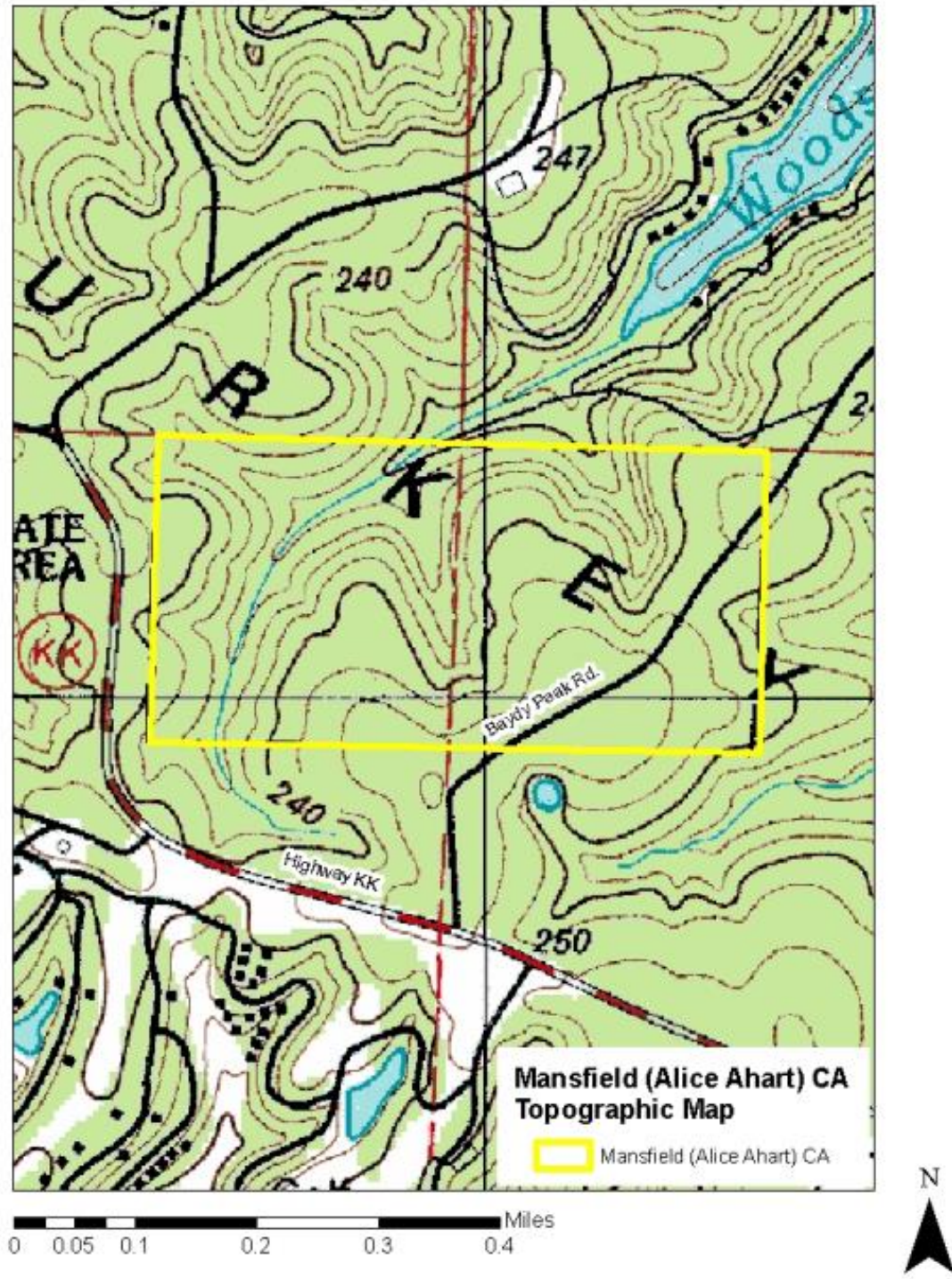
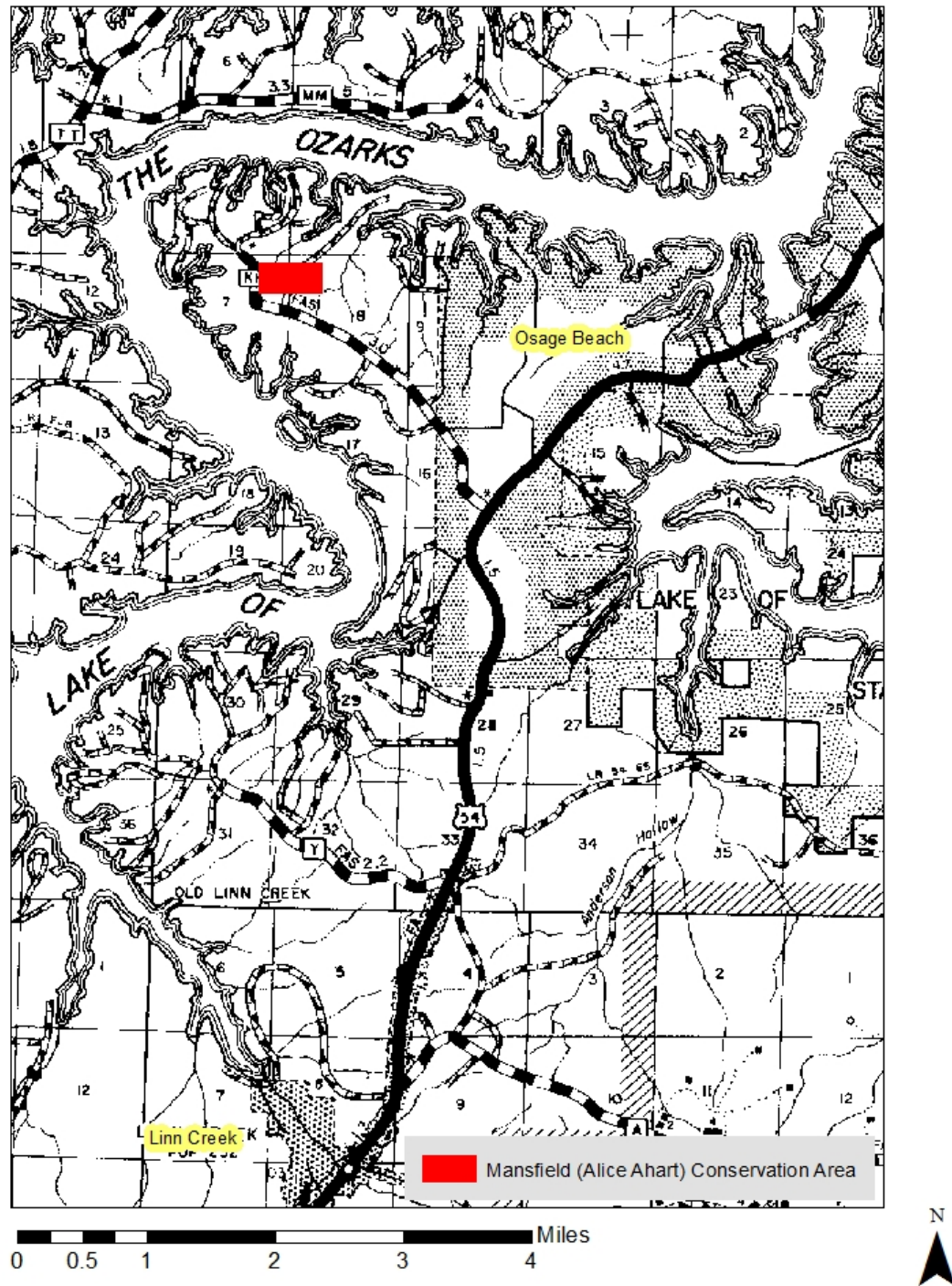


Figure 4: Location Map



## **Appendix A: Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

(Hardcopy Comment Received 6/9/2016): We get many critters from the wildlife preserve. Someone dumped many groundhogs that they trapped & released. Now we need help with them. They are taking over our sheds & grounds. They are also burrowing into our pond (lake) behind our house. Now the pond leaks. Any help you could give us with the groundhogs would be appreciated. Our neighbor is in their 80's & have a whole family by the front door and porch. Our shed had a family of 5. We finally got rid of them but now its infested with fleas.

Would it be possible to improve the hiking Trail?

(Hardcopy Comment received 6/20/2016): There are people who walk, jog, & run in this area, they can only use the road, which is dangerous. I and neighbors would use the trails if they were in the conservation area. Please consider our needs.

(Hardcopy comment received 6/30/2016): I would welcome the fact that you would consider improving the Conservation Area. If I can be of help, please call. Walking path would be great.

(Hardcopy comment received 6/30/2016): Dear Mr. Johnson, I went to the website, didn't see any place to make comments, nothing on the attached sheet so here are my comments. LOVE living next to the conservation area, enjoy deer, turkeys, etc. No one bothers us, everything is great! My only concern is one of our huge trees came down with a disease and presented a safety hazard, would you folks take care of it? Thank you for your time.